



ROCKDALE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

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Rockdale County to Furlough Staff Following the Impact of COVID-19

ROCKDALE COUNTY, Ga. – Rockdale County Government is implementing a furlough of personnel. This decision comes after the county experienced a decline in activities and services offered since March due to the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order implemented by state, city and county governments.

The impact of COVID-19 and the shelter in place orders have caused the shutdown of several parks and recreation facilities. With less people using services, less staff has been required to operate. Changes are being made now to address the services that were discontinued during this time.

With seniors being the most vulnerable population, the Rockdale County Olivia Haydel Senior Center, which first closed in March due to the pandemic concerns, will remain closed indefinitely. The Center will continue to offer the meals service to seniors that have been available throughout the pandemic.

Due to the shelter in place order, numerous public events in the county were canceled. This affected many Parks and Recreation activities including summer swimming, camps and youth sports. The County issued refunds for scheduled venue rentals and weddings. This loss will also affect the workforce and services at county rental facilities and parks. Remaining staff will focus on the operation and upkeep of outdoor parks, trails and facilities which have proven to be the most beneficial during COVID-19.

Construction remains underway for the extension of the pool area and additional gym at Johnson Park Recreation Center; however, the facility will remain closed until November to keep the general public and park staff safe.

“This is a very delicate, sensitive and fluid process, and it is still very much under review,” Chairman Oz Nesbitt, Sr. said of the furlough. “It is still active and ongoing, and we take it very seriously. The livelihoods of our employees and their families will never be taken for granted.”

Contact the Department of Talent Management at 770-278-7575 for more information about upcoming changes to staffing. For more information about facilities and parks, Johnson Park at 770-278-7529.

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